

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending September 15, 2002**. Soil moisture was rated 22 percent very short, 44 percent short, 33 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Dry conditions persist as problems for producers wishing to plant winter crops and harvest sweetpotatoes, but are welcomed by farmers harvesting row crops.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2001	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Mature	99	98	99	99	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	83	70	65	82					
	Silage Harvested	99	97	100	98					
Cotton	Open Bolls	88	71	92	87	0	2	12	50	36
	Harvested	9	3	4	11					
Rice	Mature	93	83	88	83	0	4	12	50	34
	Harvested	38	23	43	45					
Sorghum	Mature	100	97	99	96	--	--	--	--	--
	Harvested	81	56	72	74					
	Silage Harvested	81	73	87	82					
Soybeans	Turning Color	80	66	82	82	1	5	18	42	34
	Shedding Leaves	64	50	64	63					
	Harvested	35	26	29	27					
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	23	12	28	26	5	9	27	56	3
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	94	90	87	90	--	--	--	--	--
Wheat	Planted	2	--	1	2	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						3	9	23	51	14
Pasture						4	17	32	41	6

County Agent Comments

“Clear, dry weather has aided the harvest. Corn and grain sorghum harvests are almost complete. Soybeans are being harvested quickly. Cotton harvest will be in full swing next week.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower County

“We have gone into a dry weather cycle lately. This has been good for our soybean and corn harvests as work goes on without rain delays. The hot weather, with no rain, conditions have been good for opening cotton too. Our cattlemen are wishing for a rain because the ground is so dry that they can't even scratch the ground, much less break the ground for planting winter forages.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin County

“A rain is needed so livestock producers can think about planting cool season crops for grazing. Corn harvest is ongoing and yields range from 50 to 150 bushels. Peanut harvest is in full swing and yields are really good. Livestock is in excellent condition going into the fall.”

—Jon Kilgore, Lawrence County

“Corn harvest is near completion. Producers have ground ready to plant crops for winter grazing, but the lack of moisture is delaying planting. Prospects for early winter grazing are fading fast. Rain is needed throughout the county.”

—Victor Lee, Newton County

“Dry ground and hot weather have producers cautious about planting winter crops for grazing. Ground is being prepared but very little seed is being planted. As soon as we get a little moisture and a few cooler days, planting of winter pastures will be non-stop. The last of the hay crop is being rolled up, with supplies plentiful.”

— Mike Keene, Perry County

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Weather Summary from September 9, 2002 to September 15, 2002 for Mississippi													
District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Clarksdale	95	65	79	76	+3	0.00	-0.70	0	1.28	85	75	79	
Cleveland	96	63	79	76	+3	0.00	-0.64	0	0.23				
Tunica	95	63	80	75	+5	0.00	-0.63	0	0.07	91	76	84	0.17
Extreme/Average	96	63	79	76	+3	0.00	-0.77	0	0.53	91	75	82	0.17
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs				72		0.00	-0.84	0	0.83				0.20
Memphis	95	65	80	76	+4	1.32	+0.53	1	3.41				
Oxford	97	62	78	74	+4	0.05	-0.82	1	0.99				
Extreme/Average	97	62	79	75	+4	0.46	-0.44	1	1.74				0.20
3. Northeast													
Booneville	98	65	80	73	+7	0.02	-0.89	1	0.33				
Corinth	97	61	78	75	+3	0.00	-1.02	0	0.85				
Iuka	97	58	76	71	+5	0.00	-1.01	0	0.90				
Pontotoc	97	65	79	75	+4	0.00	-0.98	0	0.78	91	80	85	0.21
Tupelo	98	64	80	74	+6	0.40	-0.39	1	0.50				
Verona	98	65	80	75	+5	0.00	-1.00	0	1.55	93	79	86	0.27
Extreme/Average	98	58	79	75	+4	0.07	-0.84	0	0.82	93	79	85	0.22
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				76					0.00				
Rolling Fork	98	66	82	76	+6	0.00	-0.69	0	0.11	102	84	93	0.22
Stoneville	97	64	81	76	+5	0.00	-0.76	0	0.86	95	79	87	0.28
Yazoo City	96	65	80	77	+3	0.00	-0.63	0	0.30				
Extreme/Average	98	64	81	77	+4	0.00	-0.75	0	0.42	102	79	90	0.25
5. Central													
Carthage	97	63	79	76	+3	0.00	-0.84	0	0.82				
Greenwood	96	63	80	77	+3	0.00	-0.77	0	0.43				
Jackson	97	66	82	77	+5	0.00	-0.77	0	1.38				
Winona	94	59	76	72	+4	0.00	-0.87	0	0.10				
Extreme/Average	97	59	79	76	+3	0.00	-0.81	0	0.68				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville						0.00	-0.89	0	0.09				
Columbus	98	65	80	76	+4	0.13	-0.77	1	0.86				
State University	98	63	79	75	+4	0.00	-0.84	0	0.63	91	83	87	0.22
Extreme/Average	98	63	80	76	+4	0.04	-0.87	0	0.53	91	83	87	0.22
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	96	68	82	77	+5	0.00	-1.06	0	0.13	86	82	84	
Natchez	89	62	75	78	-3	0.03	-0.86	1	0.99				
Oakley	99	65	82	76	+6	0.00	-0.70	0	1.49	91	71	83	
Vicksburg	95	68	81			0.00		0	0.49				
Extreme/Average	99	62	80	77	+3	0.01	-0.83	0	0.78	91	71	83	
8. South-Central													
Columbia	98	69	81	77	+4	0.04	-0.95	1	0.90				
McComb	95	68	82	78	+4	0.00	-1.15	0	2.49				
Extreme/Average	98	68	81	77	+4	0.02	-0.94	1	1.70				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	99	67	81			0.10		2	1.46				
Hattiesburg	98	69	82	78	+4	0.13	-0.92	2	1.34				
Laurel	97	67	79	77	+2	0.04	-1.01	2	0.81				
Meridian	100	61	80	78	+2	0.39	-0.49	2	1.98				
Newton	100	60	79	75	+4	0.04	-0.80	1	1.26	90	76	82	0.23
Extreme/Average	100	60	80	77	+3	0.14	-0.80	2	1.37	90	76	82	0.23
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	96	67	80	79	+1	1.17	-0.16	3	3.50				
BiloxiAFB	93	73	81			0.92		3	10.14				
Gulfport	94	72	81	80	+1	1.36	-0.22	2	6.88				
Pascagoula	95	70	81			0.51		2	9.60				
Poplarville	95	70	81	78	+3	0.00	-1.04	0	2.78	92	75	80	0.19
Extreme/Average	96	67	81	79	+2	0.79	-0.56	2	5.69	92	75	80	0.19
State	100	58	80	76	+4	0.14	-0.76	1	1.32	102	71	84	0.22

DFN = Departure from Normal.